



**SKASKATOON
SKIES**

July—Aug 1982

Volume 12

Number 7 & 8



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SASKATOON SKIES



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JULY--AUGUST

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Number 7&8

SASKATOON SKIES and the NEWSLETTER are published monthly by the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Copy deadline is the last Saturday of each month.

EDITOR - John Greer

PRODUCTION - Len Herrem, Joan Badger, Lynne Herrem

MAILING ADDRESS:

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Saskatoon Centre
Sub P. O. No. 6, Box 317
SASKATOON, Saskatchewan
S7N 0W0

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THE SASKATOON GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MAY 21-23 INCLUSIVE

1982


G.N. Patterson

The 1982 General Assembly is now entered in the history books of the RASC, but while the memories are still fresh, I felt they should be recorded for any future reference. After all, most astronomers appear to like reading science fiction. But how does one record an event that seemed to approach near perfection? It is so much easier to comment on failures as one can single out individual items that went wrong - it is so much more difficult to itemize all the things that went right.

Two or more years ago, 1979-80, the Saskatoon Centre started planning the G.A. to be held in Saskatoon. At that time, our Honorary President was Dr. B.W. Currie (deceased), a very well known and highly respected individual and scientist. On our behalf, he approached the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) Administration and the Centre received a written invitation from the President's Office to hold the 1982 General Assembly on the University Campus. Adequate room space was immediately reserved in the Physics Building and the ground work was started. So, too, were the problems.

It was immediately apparent that the GA could not be held on campus during the July holiday weekend as the Summer School students would be in residence, so the May holiday weekend was selected. Again a problem arose: due to a special clause in the University Union (CUPE) contract, work on any statutory holiday can only be undertaken during a declared emergency and at double overtime. This "emergency" clause also applies to any period of time (days) that include the actual holiday. This meant that the entire period, 21-24 May would be at double overtime. Our only solution was to drop the actual statutory holiday, May 24, completely out of our program, or look for some other location which would have been even more expensive.

Our next major problem was residences and meals. At the U of S, meals may be obtained separately, cafeteria style, but if one is in residence, meals are automatically included in the "package". Working in conjunction with the Residence and Food Services managers, a complete plan was drawn up, in March 1981, with the costs guaranteed for May 1982. The original form covering all such details, ie, our Registration Form, was reviewed and amended several times and was finally approved for printing. This was the same Registration Form all delegates filled out in 1982, and is exactly the same form the Saskatchewan Centre members took



to Victoria for the 1981 GA, and handed out copies to all those parties interested in coming to Saskatoon. Also, all delegate members were given copies at the Council Meetings.

The intent of such early presentation of our GA package at Victoria was to avoid the perpetual long waiting period by the Centres for information on the next GA. For some reason, it didn't work out that way. As it turned out this was the saddest part of our entire GA planning. No one, including the NNL editor, advised us that the format of our presentation was unsuitable for publication, although I see that the NNL editor has now indicated that such was the case, in his Appendix "G" to the GA Minutes. It is a pity that the actual GA Registration Form was not printed 'as is' as it would have saved our Centre more than \$50.00 replying to queries from members of other Centres. Note that Calgary did print the form in their Newsletter, and it was used by some of the Calgary members. There is no doubt that this lack of publicity via the NNL definitely hurt attendance at the 82 GA although this is not the only cause. A similar situation exists for the French version of the Registration Form. When advised by the NNL editor of the need for a french language version of the forms, local facilities were approached and found to be a "closed-shop" (\$70.00 per page). A call to our good friend, Damien Lemay, cleared the air. Copies were sent Special Delivery to Damien who translated them for us and sent copies to the NNL editor and myself. My copies reached me before the deadline set by the NNL editor but nothing was ever printed. There is no doubt our Centre is at fault for not presenting a paraphrased version to the NNL editor but we were unaware that such was required. This again highlights the need for some Manual on GA Preparation.

Volunteers now came forward to fill out the various areas such as Registration, Publicity, Transportation, Papers Chairman, Exhibits, Accommodation, Meals, Tours, the Banquet, Group Photograph, etc. The list seems to go on forever, but people were found for all tasks - even the "gophers" who filled in for so many unexpected or tedious tasks. To thank everyone individually would take considerable space, but an especial thanks goes to our Honorary President who filled in so many capacities, in addition to his duties as Papers Chairman - we felt he should be given a lazy-susan carrying all the different 'hats' he had to 'wear' during the GA.

We had hoped that the IAPPP (International Amateur and Professional Photometric Photometry) group would provide the morning paper session for May 23, but due to other more pressing commitments, this planning fell through. However, some papers were mailed in and read by members present, and a photographic display of photometric equipment was included in the Exhibit Display.

The GA itself opened with the Wine and Cheese party held in the Private Dining Room in Marquis Hall. After the party most of the delegates wandered over to the Physics Building across the Campus Bowl where Theatre 107 was used to show many of the members, slides with the high-light of the evening being, of course, the annual song contest. After all the singing(?) was over it was realized there had been no judges selected. The evening terminated with private parties plus several trips to visit some of the Centre's Observatories.

The following morning, Dr Skinner, wearing one of his many 'hats', welcomed all the delegates on behalf of the University President and the Head of the Physics Department. Following coffeebreak, the paper session got under way under the guidance of Dr Skinner wearing his Papers Chairmans 'hat'. Peter Broughton led off with "Do You See Something I Don't See", followed by Norm Sperling talking on "The States of Astronomy". The group broke off for the traditional Group Photograph, and then adjourned for lunch. After lunch, Chris Rutkowski opened the afternoon session with "Pico, Piton and Other Suspected Sites of LTP". This was followed by our member from Japan, Osao Shigehisa (Shigisan) talking on "Light Variation of T Coronae Borealis at Minimum Stage". Jack Newton then followed with "A Supernova in NGC 4490", and the papers terminated for the first part of the afternoon with a paper by Don Jones of "Use of a Computer in Astronomy". Following a coffee break, Professor JE Kennedy completed the Paper Sessions for the day with his talk on "A Sudden Outburst of Circumferentors".

The social portion of the Annual Banquet started at 5:00pm where everyone had a chance to meet each other. Our sponsors were present, Mayor Cliff Wright for the City of Saskatoon, and our MLA, Mr Duane Weiman, for the Province of Saskatchewan, and we even persuaded our good patron, Mr Ed Rystrom, to whom we owe our use of the Dark Site, to attend and visit with the members and delegates.

Following the banquet, the members at the head table were introduced, and our two sponsors, Mayor Cliff Wright and MLA Duane Weiman gave short talks to the delegates. This was followed by a special presentation by Dr Halliday to two members of the meteorite search group from Saskatchewan. A short break was taken to enable the kitchen staff to clear the tables and then the presentation of awards took place. Two Service Awards were presented - one to Dr Doug Hube of the Edmonton Centre which was accepted by one of the Edmonton Delegates in Dr Hube's absence, and one to Gordon Patterson, President of the Saskatoon Centre. This one caught Gordon completely off-base, and for one of the first times, found him practically speechless. Needless to say, the standing ovation and the reading of the presentation by Dr Halliday gave him time to get his breath back, and he was able to reply to the presentation. Following the Service Awards the presentations were made for the prize-winning exhibits, with a special prize to our Japanese delegate, Osao Shigehisa.

Dr Halliday, as the retiring RASC President, was the Guest Speaker, and regaled the members present with a talk on the Halley's Comet program, liberally illustrated with slides.

The final note of the banquet was a presentation from the Saskatoon Centre of a wood-carving by a well-known Saskatoon artist.

Delegates spent the rest of the evening in various ways, some visiting Observatories, some night clubs, and others just having good social outings in individual room parties.

The following morning, following breakfast, the Paper Sessions resumed. Initial planning had called for this first period of the morning to be turned over exclusively to the IAPPP, but other commitments intervened. Dr Skinner, wearing another of his many "hats" read the paper prepared by Ed Majden on "An Introduction to the IAPPP and Small Observatory Photometry". This was followed by a paper prepared by David Dupuy and Randall Brooks, read by Damien Lemay, on "A Sturdy Lightweight Photometer". John Percy then gave a talk on "An International Professional-Amateur Photometric Campaign on Be Stars". and the Paper Sessions wound up with a talk by Alphonse Tardif on "Some Remarks on the Design and Construction of a Solid-State Photometer for Astronomy".

The period following the coffee-break was devoted to a discussion, headed by Dr Ian Halliday, on participation in the International Halley Watch (IHW).

The General Assembly Meeting took place in the afternoon, and has been fully reported in the GA Minutes. The usual Council Meeting took place after the GA, and other delegates disassembled their exhibits. The business portion of the 1982 General Assembly was over. However, a tour had been arranged for that evening to the Western Development Museum, and members in residence were transported by chartered bus, via a scenic route to the WDM where everyone appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Following the tour, several members visited the members Observatories, and Gordon provided a personally conducted tour of the University Observatory.

The following day, May 24, all members desiring transport were driven by Centre members to either the airport, train, or bus terminal.

Many letters have been received from delegates commenting upon the enjoyable time they had at this GA, so we must have done something right. It was wonderful having such a responsive group of people from all over Canada, plus our two members from Bermuda and Japan. Maybe we can do it again sometime.

Note: The listing of Paper Abstracts, and Exhibit Award winners is attached as separate Appendices.



ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE 1982 GENERAL ASSEMBLY1. DO YOU SEE SOMETHING I DON'T SEE?

Peter Broughton, RASC, 124 Merton St., Toronto, Ont.

During spring and fall, observers at mid-Canadian latitudes have opportunities (and perhaps obligations) to view parts of the sky not visible to others.

An observer in Saskatoon for example can see part of the night sky which is not visible to someone at more southern latitudes. At the same time of night, the more southerly observer cannot see the portion of the sky because it is below the northern horizon; earlier in the night, he cannot see it because of evening twilight, and later it will not have risen before the morning twilight interferes. The Saskatoon observer will also be able to see part of the sky which someone further north cannot see because twilight may last all night.

At higher latitudes these effects become less useful because of the short night. (Even at the pole, astronomical night occurs only in December and January). At lower latitudes the same phenomena exist but are less important because there are many other observers better situated further north.

2. THE STATES OF ASTRONOMY.

Norman Sperling, 429 43rd St, Oakland, Cal. 94609 USA

From Winter Solstice to Astronomy Day I toured America in my RV, running up over 50,000 km while making 2 or 3 contacts a day among observatories, planetaria, amateurs, professionals, companies, ATM's, writers, and a haphazard sprinkling of unclassifiables as well as a couple of professional conventions and the Shuttle launch. My description of this trip, and some conclusions that I derived from my experiences will be presented.

3. PICO, PITON AND OTHER SUSPECTED SITES OF LTP

Chris Rutkowski, PO Box 1919, Winnipeg Manitoba, R3C 3R2

There are two prominent features near the perimeter of Mare Imbrium that are noted only occasionally in astronomical literature. They are Pico and Piton, two isolated mountain peaks that cast long shadows at sunrise and sunset, and therefore are ideal for amateur astronomers practicing the measuring of lunar heights. Many amateurs and professionals have sketched the appearances of these peaks, and noted striking changes in them with the advance of selenographic colongitude. Some have interpreted the changes to indicate volcanism, lunar clouds and the creation of frost on their slopes. These changes were in some cases considered LTP (Lunar Transient Phenomena).

(cont'd)

Generally speaking, LTP are any noticeable changes in the appearance of features of the Moon. Usually, only one small feature, such as a rille or crater is affected, although there exist reports of the entire lunar surface being photometrically enhanced. LTP are mostly visual observations, although there notable exceptions. There is a great deal of debate as to the "reality" of LTP. Some insist they are caused by varying seeing conditions; others believe LTP are due to particle-induced luminescence on the lunar surface.

4. ON LIGHT VARIATION OF T CORONAE BOREALIS AT MINIMUM STAGE

Osao Shigehisa, 3534 Shimo-Tsuruma, Yamato, Kanagawa, Japan 242

This star is a recurrent novae and had errupted two times in 1866 and in 1946. The star is now at minimum brightness of about 10th magnitude with small variations, I have observed the star since 1972 and found out that the star has the following interesting characteristics.

1. The star has periodic variations in brightness.
2. The variation is different year by year in magnitude and in period.
3. Secondary periods were detected.

I obtained observations of 19 maxima and 17 minima of the star and measured mean periods 113.4-day in max. to max., and 113.6-day in min. to min.. The period ranges varied between 90 days and 130 days and are different each time. Each period of max. - max. and min.- min was plotted in Julian Day order and secondary periods were detected. There seem to be semiregular changes.

5. A SUPERNOVA IN NGC 4490

Jack Newton, 2402 Morris Drive, Victoria, B.C. V8X 4G8

Good luck played a role in obtaining magnitude measurements of the early development of a supernova in the galaxy NGC 4490. The story of this and the excitement involved will be presented, as well as data obtained.

6. USE OF A COMPUTER IN ASTRONOMY

Don Jones, 750 Woodland Drive, Castlegar, B.C. V1N 1E9

Computers can be used to store significant amounts of data. The data can later be retrieved for statistical applications of whatever nature might seem appropriate. For example, one application was to store the data on one hundred globular clusters listed in Antonin Becvar's Atlas of the Heavens. A least squares calculation was programmed to correlate distance and radial velocity. The distance

(cont'd)

to be subtracted to make the mean cluster distance was interpreted as the distance to the centre of the galaxy. The radial velocity to be subtracted to make the mean radial velocity zero was interpreted as the speed of the Sun in its orbit about the galaxy. From these data and Kepler's third law, the mass of the galaxy can be estimated to be in the neighborhood of 9×10^{10} solar masses. This is only one of many applications available to microcomputer users.

7. A SUDDEN OUTBURST OF CIRCUMFERENTORS IN WESTERN CANADA

J. E. KENNEDY, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS, UNIVERSITY OF SAKATCHEWAN, SASKATOON, CANADA S7N 0W0

By no means as spectacular as the long-awaited supernova, nor rating the attention given by the media to the Jupiter effect, there was, however, a noteworthy astronomical event in the year 1981; the number of surveyor's compasses known to exist in western Canada increased suddenly from one to three.

The discovery of two superb instruments in Winnipeg renewed interest in the 19th century development of surveying in Canada and its close association with early Canadian astronomy. From a stone pillar on the true meridian line, where William Brydone Jack checked surveyor's compasses for accuracy, it has become possible to determine the type or design of circumferentor which he placed on the top of the stone pillar.

8. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE IAPPP AND SMALL OBSERVATORY PHOTOMETRY

Edward P. Majden, Member: IAPPP - RASC Victoria Centre
1491 Burgess Road, Courtenay, B.C. V9N 5R8

A brief history of amateur involvement in photoelectric photometry is presented from its early beginnings with Dr. G.E. Kron's paper in ATM-3 in 1953 to the organization of the IAPPP in 1980. The purpose and goals of the IAPPP are discussed.

9. A STURDY LIGHTWEIGHT PHOTOMETER

David L. Dupuy and Randall C. Brooks, Department of Astronomy, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 3C3

Read by: Damien Lemay, Member Quebec Center and IAPPP

This paper describes a new lightweight student photometer that is easy to mount on the telescope and easy to use. The detector is an uncooled, low dark current photomultiplier tube EMI 9844. Ease of machining, resulting in low cost, was a dominant factor in the mechanical layout of the photometer.

Advantages and inconvenients of the design will be discussed.

10. AN INTRNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL AMATEUR PHOTOMETRIC
CAMPAIGN ON Be STARS

John R. Percy, Department of Astronomy, University of
Toronto, Canada M5S 1A7

The Be stars are a group of bright B-type stars with emission lines in their spectra. They vary in brightness, by up to a few tenths of a magnitude, on time scales of hours up to years. The nature and cause of this variability is not fully understood. For this reason, an international professional-amateur photometric campaign has recently been organized by Drs. P. Harmanec, J. Horn and P. Koubsky of the Ondrejov Observatory of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. This paper describes the scope and aims of the photometric campaign. It examines the main problems which are encountered in campaigns of this sort: achieving precise observations and reducing them to a standard photometric system. Typical light curves of Be stars, obtained with 0.4 m telescopes at the University of Toronto and at the Kitt Peak National Observatory, will be shown.

11. SOME REMARKS ON THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A
SOLID-STATE PHOTOMETER FOR ASTRONOMY

Alphonse Tardiff, 9 Mgr Gosselin, Levis, P.Q. G6V 5K1

Solid-state silicon detectors have many advantages over photo-multiplier tubes but also have a few drawbacks. Problems involved with high gain DC amplifiers are examined. A few approaches to the design and construction of a solid-state photometer are considered.

PRIZES AWARDED FOR ENTRIES IN THE EXHIBIT CONTEST

Note: Entries were not available for all categories, and some entries were not considered adequate for an award by the judges. Plaques were awarded in all categories.

1. Solar, visual - no entry
2. Solar, photographic - John & Lorrain Hicks - Handbook of Astrophotography.
3. Lunar - no entries suitable
4. Comets - no entries suitable
5. Planetary, photographic - Len Gamache - Handbook of Astro-
-photography.
6. Deep Space - Jack Newton - 20x50 Binoculars.
7. Atmospheric Phenomena, visual - Mark Zalcik - Handbook of
Astrophotography.
8. Atmospheric Phenomena, photographic - Len Gamache & Dave Sine -
Tirion Sky Atlas 2000.0
9. Variable Stars - none
10. Radio Astronomy - none.
11. Equipment - GN Patterson - 7-inch Schmidt Blank.
12. Centre Display - Calgary Centre - \$100 cash prize plus
4½-inch Telescope.
13. Most Improved Newsletter - Late Award to the Winnipeg Centre.
14. Open Category - Damien Lemay - \$100 Cash Award.
15. Overall Grand Prize - Calgary Centre
16. Special Award - Osao Shigahisa. 'Shigisan' as he is known to all his friends at the GA came over 7000 miles to attend this Assembly, contributed an excellent paper, and was the life and fun of all the parties. Everyone enjoyed his presence at the GA, and he was an excellent ambassador for his country.


The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
 Saskatoon Centre Incorporated
 Interim Statement - 1982 General Assembly
 Balance Sheet - June 30, 1982


Assets;

Cash	\$ 5,172.50
Grants/Receivable	<u>1,560.00</u>
	<u>\$ 6,732.50</u>

Liabilities & Equity ;

Accounts Payable	\$ 5,717.95
Equity - June 30, 1982	<u>1,014.55</u>
	<u>\$ 6,732.50</u>


 S. H. Patterson President


 B. M. H. H. H. Treasurer

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
 Saskatoon Centre Incorporated
 Interim Statement - 1982 General Assembly
 Revenue & Expenditure - June 30, 1982

Revenue;

Registration	\$	624.00
Banquet		1,188.00
Accomodation & Meals		3,761.55
Bank Interest		110.54
Misc.		143.81
Civic Grant		696.00
Provincial Grant		864.00
Donations		<u>893.23</u>
Total Revenue	\$	<u>8,281.13</u>

Expenditure;

Administrative	\$	41.56
Accomodation & Meals		3,753.30
Awards		573.26
Banquet		1,152.00
Coffee		337.50
Group Photograph		500.00
Postage		118.01
Printing & Stationery		327.50
Transportation (Tour)		46.00
Wine & Cheese		<u>417.45</u>
		<u>7,266.58</u>
Net Surplus	\$	<u><u>1,014.55</u></u>

ADDENDUM TO APPENDIX "C"

1. Under Revenue, moneys shown for Civic Grant and Provincial Grant have not yet been received, and amounts may differ from that shown in the interim statement.
2. Donations include some of the extra printing, stamps, etc, that have been paid by individuals . It does not include all the expenses for gas, etc provided by individuals for picking up delegates arriving at the airport, bus station, etc. Transportation shown under the heading of Expenditure is for the rental of the tour bus only.

CENTRE IN FOCUS

***** COMET AUSTIN *****

Comet Austin (1982g) was discovered June 18 by New Zealand astronomer Rodney Austin. It is presently located in the area directly below the Big Dipper, about ten degrees above the horizon. Look for a diffuse round glow about one quarter the diameter of the full moon. A faint tail extending upwards towards the Dipper and away from the sun may also be seen.

EPHEMERIS 1982g

DATE	R.A.	Declination	Elongation	Magnitude
SEPT 13	12 39.3	+41 38	41	7.1
18	12 44.4	+40 21	41	7.7
23	12 48.1	+39 08	41	8.2
28	12 51.1	+38 00	41	8.6
OCT 3	12 53.5	+36 58	41	9.1
8	12 55.7	+36 03	42	9.5
13	12 57.7	+35 16	43	9.9

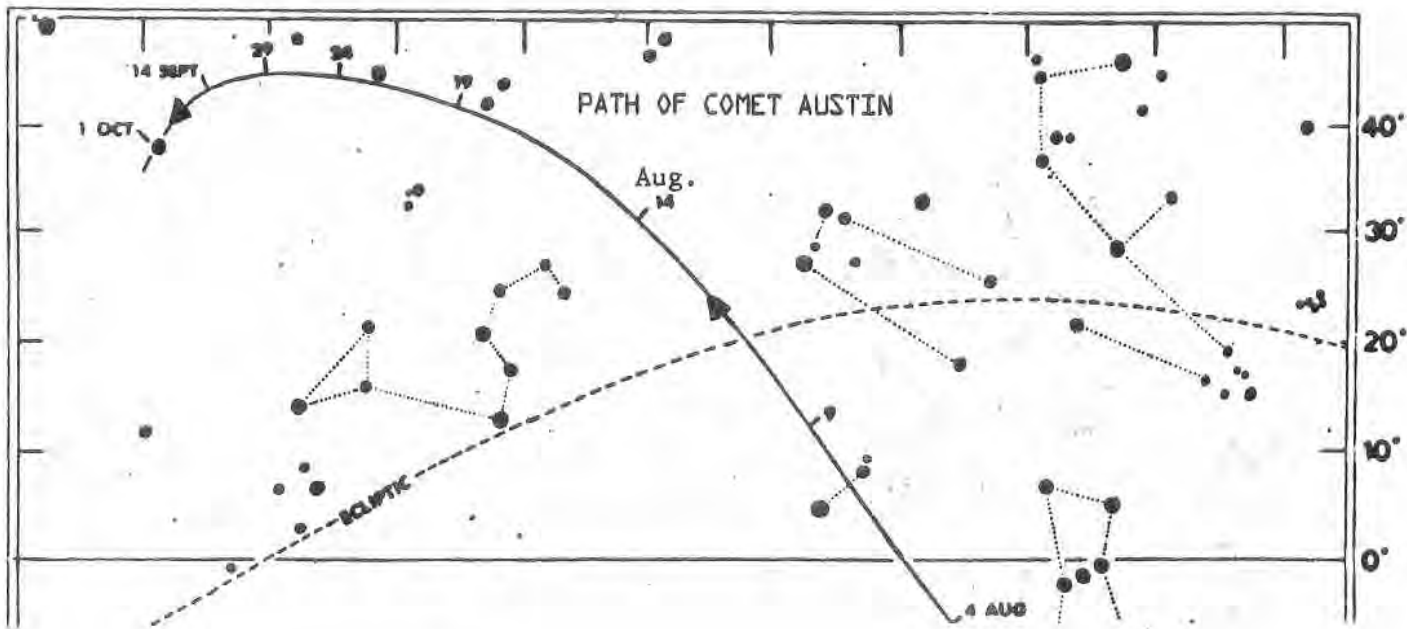
A Note On The Photographs G.N. Patterson Saskatoon Centre

TOP- Town Site Comet Austin 1982g 2 Sept 1983

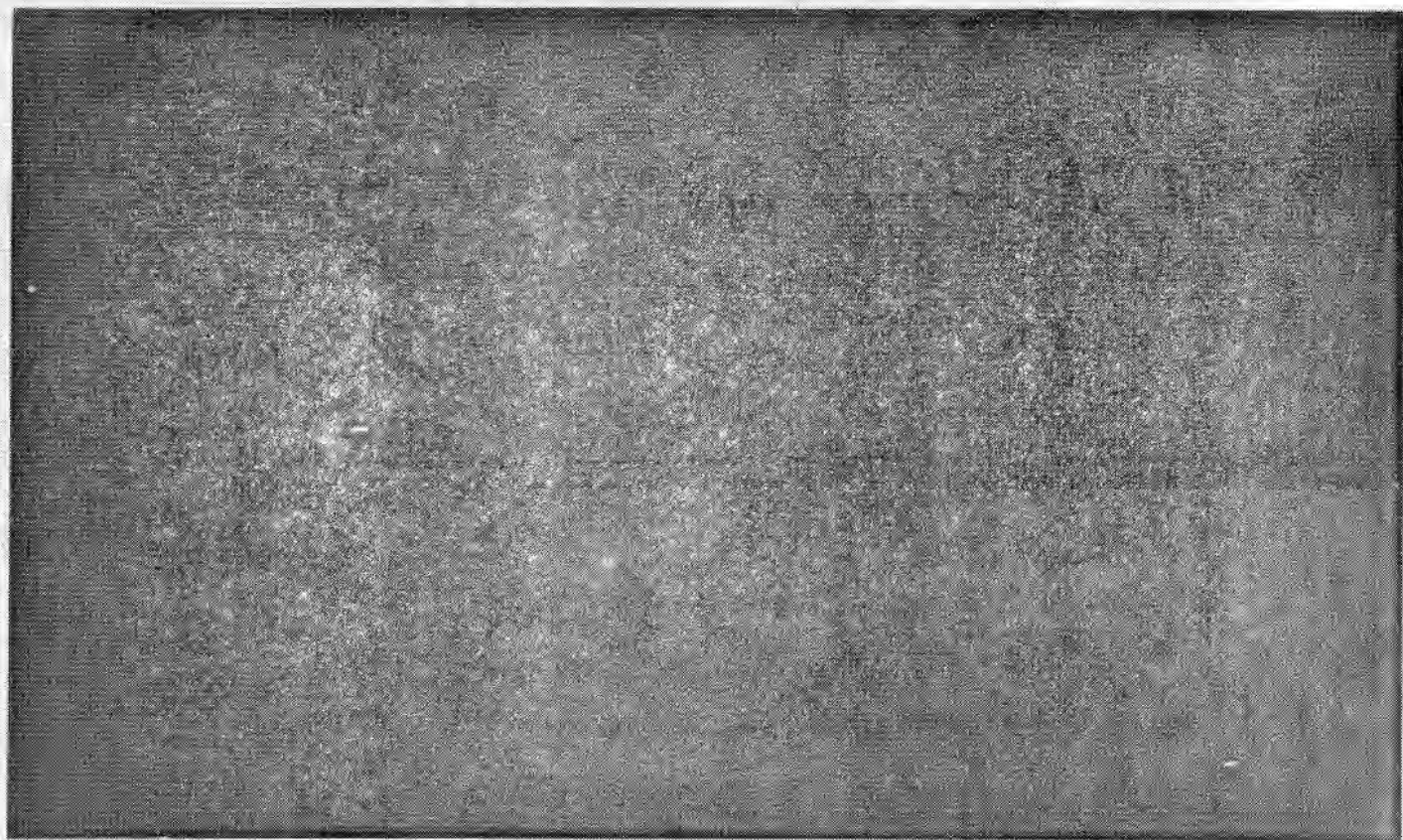
Celestron 8 at f/10 8 second exposure on SO 115 hypered.

BOTTOM- Dark Site Comet Austin 1982g 3 Sept 1983

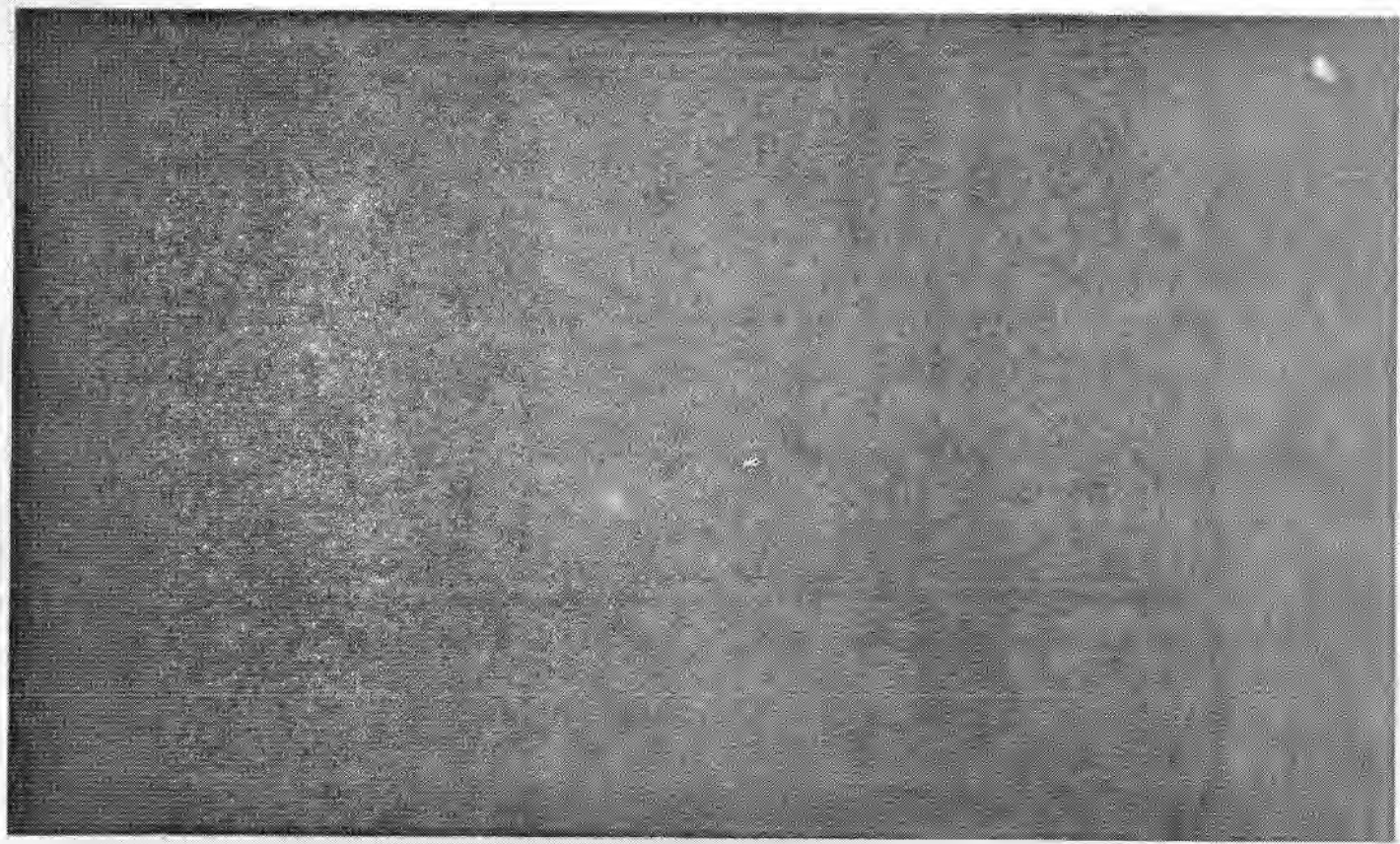
Celestron 8 at f/10 15 second exposure on SO 115 hypered.



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The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Saskatoon Centre
P.O. Box 317 Sub 6
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7N 0W0

NEWS RELEASE

SUMMER ROUNDUP

The general public is invited to attend the next General Meeting of the Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, when Centre members will be presenting slides documenting some of the summer's activities. These will include the General Assembly in May, and the public star night in July.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1982
8:00 PM
ROOM B-111, HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING
UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

The meeting will adjourn to the U of S Observatory for coffee and viewing through the 7" telescope, weather permitting. There is NO ADMISSION CHARGE. For more information, contact Mike Wesolowski at 374-3331.

Please publish, broadcast or display this news release/
public service announcement on behalf of the Saskatoon
Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Mike
Wesolowski, Vice President.

Mike Wesolowski

NEWSLETTER

Mailing Address:

**The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada
Saskatoon Centre
Sub P.O. No. 6, Box 317
SASKATOON, Saskatchewan
S7N 0W0**

Members of the Executive Council

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PRESIDENT Gordon Patterson	ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR Pat Skinner
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Gordon Patterson	Rick Huziak
Mike Wesolowski	Doug Miller
	Mike Wesolowski

Notice of Meeting

Place Room B111, Health Sciences Bldg. U of S campus

Date September 20, 1982 (Day) Monday

Time 8:00 p.m. (Central Standard)

Purpose September General Meeting

Program The Centre's Summer Activities.

MINUTES OF AN EXECUTIVE MEETING

Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

PLACE - - - U of S Observatory, U of S campus.
DAY/DATE - Monday, June 21, 1982

TIME.. 7:30 p.m.C.S.T

Present: Gordon Patterson, Mike Williams, Jim Young,
Walter Fernets, Joan Badger, John Greer, Len Herrem,
Lillia Wilcox.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAIL</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
98.	1982 General Assembly reviewed.	G. Patterson
99.	A total lunar eclipse will take place on Monday, July 5-6 and will be visible beginning 10:22 p.m.CST and ending 4:40 a.m. CST. b) A number of members will be running various programs at the dark site.	G. Patterson
100.	There will be <u>no</u> regular monthly meetings during July and August. These will be replaced by: a) Friday July 23, picnic and public star night at Diefenbaker Park and Saturday July 24, public star night. b) Friday August 13, Perseid meteor shower at the Dark Site. The shower will peak Thursday-August 12, 1982.	G. Patterson
101.	Next monthly general meeting will be held on Monday September 20, 1982 at Health Sciences Building, Room B111 at 8:00 p.m. b) Renew membership at this time. c) Thought should be given to October election of officers for the Centre.	G. Patterson

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAIL</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
102.	There will be a series of San Francisco Sidewalk Astronomers Star nights, Aug. 14-17, 1982 at Waterton National Park. This is part of a British Columbia and Alberta Tour.	J. Greer

MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING

Saskatoon Centre of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

PLACE - - - Room B111, Health Sciences Bldg. U of S campus
 DAY/DATE - Monday, June 21, 1982 TIME - 8:00 p.m. C.S.T

Present: Gordon Patterson, Mike Williams, Jim Young,
 Walter Fernets, Joan Badger, John Greer,
 Len Herrem, Lillia Wilcox.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAIL</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
103.	Meeting called to order 8:00 p.m.	G. Patterson
104.	April minutes adopted as published. Tarek Fahmi Walter Fernets	G. Patterson CARRIED
105.	Letters of thanks and appreciation for the 1982 G.A. were read.	G. Patterson
106.	A special note of thanks to our Honourary President, Dr. Ray Skinner for the job well done in handling the paper sessions at the 1982 General Assembly.	G. Patterson
107.	The next two general meetings are substituted for by outings:	G. Patterson
	a) Friday July 23, picnic and public star night at Diefenbaker Park and July 24, public star night.	
	b) Thursday August 12, diehard members will be at the Dark Site for the peak of the Perseid meteor shower. Friday August 13, a general outing at the Dark Site will take place.	

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DETAIL</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
108.	On Monday July 5-6, there will be a total lunar eclipse visible throughout North America.	G. Patterson
109.	The next General Meeting will be held Monday September 20, 1982 at Room B111, Health Sciences Building, U of S Campus at 8:00 p.m. b) Renew membership c) Consider nominations for 1982-1983 officers.	G. Patterson
110.	Moved that the meeting end before film.	Len Herrem Joan Badger
111.	An interesting film on the Tunguska meteorite was shown.	
112.	Adjourned to Observatory 9:00 p.m.	Richard Packard

AROUND THE CENTRE



A Résumé on the Activities of the Centre

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

On the night of July 5, a number of Centre members gathered at Rystrom Observatory to observe the Total Lunar Eclipse. Telescopes, cameras and photometric experiments were set up, lawn chairs and thermoses were broken out and everyone readied themselves for the event. Just about this time, several layers of cloud moved into the area. The next several hours were spent in the not terribly satisfying activity of cloud watching (members interested in joining the newly formed variable cloud observing association, please do not contact the editor). Shortly after mid-eclipse, the moon put in a short appearance, allowing a somewhat fuzzy view. A few photographs were obtained in the brief time the moon was visible.

The second lunar eclipse of the year (December 30) should hold better prospects for weather.

The Seventh Annual Public Star Night at Diefenbaker Park was very well attended by both Centre members and the public. Over a dozen telescopes were set up, and the lineups were constant and long until after midnight both nights. As well, for the first time in several years, we had two clear nights in a row for our annual public showing.

The annual outing to Rystrom Observatory was well attended this year, if extremely informal. No real plans were made for a Centre star party, unlike previous years.

This year, Centre members simply arrived at the Dark Site and set out to look for meteors. There were members out every night of the week, with the notable exception of the peak night, August 11/12, as a totally impenetrable cloud layer covered the area. The following night, about a dozen members were on hand to witness one of the best showers of recent years. A count was kept over two one hour periods, giving the following results; first hour shower rate of 75 with 25 sporadic, second hour rate of 80 with 30-35 sporadic.

Bright, slow moving meteors recognized as shower were still being seen in some numbers for at least another week.

WHAT'S NEW/WHAT'S HAPPENING

CALGARY PLANETARIUM CUTS BACK

In what is apparently an economy measure, the City of Calgary Planetarium is closing its observing deck and putting its collection of public use telescopes into storage until further notice. This regrettable move will deprive the public of yet another opportunity to become involved in astronomy. Reports also indicate that telescope making and astronomy classes have been phased out as well.

EDMONTON SPACE SCIENCES CENTRE

Construction of the new planetarium in Edmonton is proceeding. The structure is completely framed, and the outer sheathing of the building is beginning. The Centre is to incorporate a large planetarium theatre, display areas, classrooms and conference facilities and a bookstore and giftshop. The Centre is being built in Coronation Park, just a few hundred metres from the present Queen Elizabeth Planetarium which has been declared a historic site, and is to be maintained in operating condition.

SASKATOON CENTRE OBSERVERS GROUP

Observers Group Saturday night meetings will resume September 4, at 79 Baldwin Crescent. Information about the 82-83 astronomy and astrophotography classes will be available shortly.

The Observer's Trophy

- an observational stimulus

Good news for amateur astronomers. One no longer needs to watch westerns of old to experience the excitement and challenge of 'High Noon' — figuratively speaking that is. There now exists for our avocation, a special award that may drive the top hot-shot scope-slingers to an observational shoot-out.

Seriously now, there is a newly created award that promises to encourage observational activity and, in the process perhaps, a healthy competitive spirit as well. It's appropriately called the Observer's Trophy.

As the trophy's creator, I found myself pleasantly surprised and delighted at the overwhelmingly favorable reception given its debut at both the June 8th R.A.S.C. Vancouver Centre Meeting, and at the June 4th M.R.A.A.S. meeting and dedication. If the observational response proves as positive, I'm sure we can expect to see more articles of an observational nature enhancing the pages of our newsletters.

The trophy itself is a handsome novel object — a homemade astro-curiosity. The miniature telescope on its equatorial fork mount is a Cassegrain believed to be the world's smallest, having an aperture of 4 cm and an effective focal length of 20 cm. And inscribed on the trophy's lower plate are the particulars, including a dedication which emphasizes both the honoring of meritorious contribution, and the encouraging of observational activity.

Built for public exhibition, the trophy will be displayed at planetariums, observatories, and special astronomy-group events, wherever display facility and insurance can be provided.

The item measures 18.4 cm by 29.5 cm at the base, and 57.3 cm in height when its miniature scope is positioned level. The walnut-finished wood together with the polished steel and brass weigh in at a cool 6.53 kg (or 14 lbs. 7 oz.).

As with the creation of any award, no sooner is there a trophy than there is expressed by many, a need for explicit rules over its judiciary. So in compliance with the request, I have drafted the following regulatory guideline:

The Observer's Trophy is an honorary award open to all amateur astronomers in the west, regardless of one's astronomy group affiliation. This allows participation by all the observationally inclined, including those amateur astronomers who for various reasons may not have applied for, or renewed, membership with a formal society.

This, however, does not mean that contest entry is completely free of restriction. This particular award has a western flavor 'sui generis', which is ensured by a residence requirement. In that to be eligible for entry, contestants must live in the western region of Canada, that is: anywhere from British Columbia to Manitoba, inclusive,— the boundary being regional rather than politically based. It should perhaps be mentioned that astronomy enthusiasts residing in other regions, may, if they so desire, freely institute observation type trophies of their own.

The winner of the original Observer's Trophy will receive: a certificate of merit; a large color photo of the publicly displayed trophy; and, if able to attend the actual ceremony, a photograph showing the blushing highlight of presentation. And, as if that isn't enough to wet the appetite, the winner will have his name, his field of endeavor, and the date all carefully engraved upon the prestigious trophy, for all the world to see!

If fame won't drive the latent observer to frequent observation sessions or to adhere to his own observation program, it may become necessary to tempt by offering a modest \$cash\$ prize, though I would hope enough interest could be generated without having to resort to commercial means.

To apply for the award, an observer need only submit a copy of his, and his alone, exceptional observation or series of observations to the M.R.A.A.S. Observer's Group, c/o Mr. W. J. Hodgson — M.R.A.A.S. president, 11209 - 261st St., R.R.#1, Maple Ridge, B.C., V2X 7E6. This observer's group will be responsible to maintain for now and for years to come, an acceptable and consistent standard of quality to be met by the winning entry.

The contestant is required to make the observation himself, using his own telescope. And since there are no restrictions on the size and type of instrument that may be used, a new wave of telescope construction and acquisition is encouraged.

The contestant must be a true amateur astronomer, meaning that at the time of his observation, he must not be in the receipt of salary, grant, or moneys of any kind for his observational work.

Since verification of observational data will not always be possible, the observer will be on his honor to record and report his findings accu-

rately, objectively, and honestly. To deter any fraudulent attempt, let the 'persona non grata' be warned that if a submission is found to be less than genuine, the contestant will not only be disqualified, but will be barred from future participation.

Submission must be made by the observer himself to ensure consent to this contest's use of his material. As a motivational element, though, it wouldn't hurt to have astronomy groups nominate candidates from their membership.

Entries should be typed and ready for publication as the winning entry may be featured in several newsletters across the west, and in the National Newsletter of the R.A.S.C. as well.

All entries, upon receipt, will be promptly acknowledged in writing. And will be kept on permanent file with the M.R.A.A.S. as a matter of public record.

It is important that material to be judged be received about two months prior to the award ceremony to allow adequate time for evaluation. Therefore, material mailed to the M.R.A.A.S. should be postmarked no later than the last day of February.

Should the observation's subject matter prove somewhat unfamiliar or simply difficult to interpret, known R.A.S.C. specialists in the field of study will be consulted to ensure fair treatment and impartial judgment. And, since every effort will be made to guarantee evaluation fairness, the decision delivered by the panel of judges will be considered final.

The Observer's Trophy may not be awarded if entries are not forthcoming or if, in the opinion of the judges, the prize is not warranted. On the other hand, if there should be more than one submission worthy of honor, each candidate will receive recognition by sharing the award. If the decision should be close, non-winners may wish to rewrite and re-submit their work the following year.

The official presentation ceremony will be held annually on International Astronomy Day, May 1st. And its location will alternate between two localities: Vancouver, at the Gordon Southam Observatory; and Maple Ridge, either at the Municipal Hall or at the future Maple Ridge Observatory.

The preceding are my deliberated recommendations, which if met with general approval, may be adopted as official. And if not, then I will consider amending with any reasonable well-thought ideas that come forth. Queries and suggestions over the rules should be directed to Mr. D. G. Graham, an M.R.A.A.S. director, 1855 Holdom Ave., Burnaby, B.C., V5B 3W1.

On a final note, astronomy presents the amateur with such a broad field of interests that one can easily see the need for additional awards, to honor achievement in the categories of telescope making, educational commitment, activity organizing, outstanding service, and so on. Perhaps other members can be persuaded to originate special purpose trophies or plaques of their own design. I'm sure there are creative people out there contemplating contribution though perhaps needing encouragement from their fellow astro-buffs. If you feel you have a good idea, then why not develop it? I'm sure others would welcome your contribution.

Sincerely yours,



D. G. Graham
(an M.R.A.A.S. director, &
an R.A.S.C. member)